

Two things emerge from the dust and heat of controversy. One seems clearly proved, i.e. that the Mongolian idiot is an atavistic betrayal of Mongolian ancestry, and implies much more than a mere superficial resemblance. The other, of deeper import, may still be disputed, though we would agree with the writer in the *Encyclopædia Britannica* who says that, "the hypothesis of development admits of the argument, that several simian species may have culminated in several races of man." To us the Mongolian idiot is an outstanding illustration of Dr. A. C. Haddon's remark, "In the life of the cultured European from his earliest infancy do we find milestones that mark the rate and extent of his progress, and all along this weary road, which it has taken mankind tens of thousands of years to traverse, do we find the tired ones—the laggards in the race of life—who mutely indicate, if we have but discrimination enough to read it, a record of the painful but glorious ascent from the brute to the human."

We are assured that there are great difficulties in the way of accepting Dr. Crookshank's view. But are there not also great difficulties in the way of the more orthodox views? Can all the mass of evidence that the author has accumulated be lightly brushed aside? We confess that to us it seems to demand serious consideration. Are we really satisfied that the monophyletic origin of man is proven?

W. LANGDON BROWN.

Lundborg, Herman. *Die Rassenmischung beim Menschen* (reprint from BIBLIOGRAPHIA GENETICA VIII, 1931).

WITH the re-discovery of the Mendelian laws of heredity about the beginning of the present century the investigation of hybridization obtained an exact foundation to build upon. The conformity to law that prevails as regards the inheritance of a number of somatic qualities in the product of crossing between different races has been clearly

established. Especially within the animal and vegetable kingdoms, where—contrary to what is the case with human beings—experimental research could be resorted to, it has been possible to ascertain with great clearness this conformity to law. Among other things, it has been established that no "blending" of the parent races takes place, but that the individual qualities or quality complexes are inherited independently of each other. Indeed, this is really the salient point in the problem of hybridization. For, while the mutually independent inheritance of qualities gives rise to new and favourable combinations, it at the same time gives occasion to a large number which are unfortunate—inharmonious.

In a free state of nature in animals and plants, and in man in former times, these unfortunate new combinations were eradicated by selection and thus prevented from being transmitted to new generations. In modern civilized man they are artificially preserved. This is the crucial point in the problem of hybridization.

With improved means of communication intercourse between nations, and thereby displacement of population and hybridization, have greatly increased. Where in former times the race lived in relative isolation there is to-day taking place the most active migration with its inevitable results. Everywhere we find those melting pots in which all sorts of different races from far and near are being amalgamated into alloys of more or less doubtful quality.

The recent work by the Swedish race-biologist, Herman Lundborg, gives a very comprehensive and clear account of the position of the hybridization problem to-day, from a scientific, social-biological, and social-political standpoint. An enormous amount of material has been collected and arranged in this work, which will prove to be a book of reference of great value.

After a searching historical survey of the hybridization question, the author proceeds to deal with the separate points, such as inheritance of somatic characters, the Mendelian laws, domestication phenomena, power of resistance, fecundity, mortality,

etc. In the last chapter: "Psychic qualities, race, race-mixture and culture," the author points out the importance of *the race* as the organic foundation for all progress and all culture.

The result that has now been arrived at is that the more remote the parent races are from each other in physical and psychic respects, the greater is the probability of unfortunate new combinations. Bitter experiences have established this fact, as far as the best-known hybrids are concerned such as mulattoes, mestizos, samboes, gipsies, and numerous other products of crossing between European colonists and the aborigines of Africa, South America, the South Sea Islands, etc. The unrestrained blending of blood—panmixia—is therefore most severely condemned by the majority of the leading investigators of the present day, such as Lundborg, Nilsson-Ehle, Lenz, Baur, Fischer, Davenport, and many others.

On the other hand, crossing between closely related races, as, for instance, between Nordic and Mediterranean, Nordic-Alpine, Nordic-Dinaric, *may* even be favourable in result and *may sometimes* produce culture-creating elements, which inbreeding within a pure race could probably not have done.

Herman Lundborg has in this and other works given his countrymen a warning. We who believe that "on our own heads, in our own hands, the sin and the saving lies," are in great debt to him for his courageous campaign to preserve the Nordic race from race-mixing and destruction.

JON ALFRED MJOEN,
Vinderen Laboratory.

LONDON SOCIOLOGY

London School of Economics. *The New Survey of London Life and Labour.* (Volume I: *Forty Years of Change.*) London, 1930. P. S. King and Son. Pp. 438. Price 17s. 6d.

THE undertaking of a new survey of London life and labour modelled upon the

classic inquiry directed by Charles Booth is an event of no mean importance to all students of the social sciences. It is something of a tragedy that a similar inquiry was not undertaken and completed during the decade before the War. Booth's inquiry is separated from the present one not only by forty years of change, but also by the great abyss of the War and its aftermath. Long term trends and changes are therefore obscured by the vast upheaval, while it is at present too early to judge as to the degree and permanence of the social and economic development to which the War gave rise.

Volume 1 of the New Survey, which is the subject of the present review, is purely introductory. "Its purpose is primarily historical and retrospective, designed to bridge the long gap between the dates of the two inquiries by assembling and analysing such long-period data of a comparable kind as are available for the purpose of tracing the trend of economic and social conditions in the past forty years."

The volume does not anticipate any of the results of the actual survey, in fact it much resembles the memorandum prepared by some competent civil servant for the use of the members of a Royal Commission. That is, it summarizes the objects of the inquiry and assembles, under various heads, the existing information upon the subject. A good deal of this information is statistical, and much, though not all, of the comment is concerned with the difficulty of statistical interpretations and comparisons. One suspects that the information was in fact very rightly prepared for the use of those who were to be engaged in the inquiry and that the material thus assembled was then used for the very different purpose of an introductory volume. It may appear ungracious to say so, but the result has been frankly disappointing to at least one reader. It is true that the volume brings together in an accessible form much information useful to the social student and that many of the statistical tables and the most excellent maps will prove not only of value in themselves but indispensable to the understand-